

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 14, 1999

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 7, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 27

Introduced by Assembly Member Honda

June 22, 1999

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 27—Relative to the war crimes committed by the Japanese military during World War II.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 27, as amended, Honda. War crimes: Japanese military during World War II.

This measure would urge the Government of Japan to formally issue a clear and unambiguous apology for the atrocious war crimes committed by the Japanese military during World War II and to immediately pay reparations to the victims of those crimes. This measure would also call upon the United States Congress to adopt a similar resolution and would urge the President of the United States to take all appropriate action to bring about a formal apology and reparations by the Government of Japan.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, During World War II, the Governments of
2 Japan and Germany flagrantly violated the Geneva and

1 Hague Conventions and committed atrocious crimes
2 against humanity; and

3 WHEREAS, The Government of Germany has
4 formally apologized to the victims of the Holocaust and
5 gone to great lengths to provide financial compensation
6 to victims and to provide for their needs and recovery;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, By contrast, the Government of Japan has
9 refused to fully acknowledge the crimes it committed
10 during World War II and to provide reparations to the
11 victims of those crimes; and

12 WHEREAS, 33,587 members of the United States
13 Armed Forces and 13,966 American civilians were
14 captured by the Japanese military in the Pacific Theater
15 during World War II, many of whom were current or
16 former residents of the State of California; and

17 WHEREAS, Many of the United States military and
18 civilian prisoners of the Japanese military during World
19 War II were confined in inhumane prison camps and
20 subjected to forced labor and died unmentionable deaths;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, The Japanese military invaded Nanking,
23 China, from December 1937 until February 1938, during
24 the period known as the “Rape of Nanking,” and brutally
25 slaughtered more than 300,000 Chinese men, women, and
26 children and raped more than 20,000 women; and

27 WHEREAS, The people of Guam and the Marshall
28 Islands, during the Japanese occupation from 1941–1944,
29 were subjected to unmentionable acts of violence,
30 including forced labor and marches, and imprisonment
31 by the Japanese military during its occupation of these
32 islands; and

33 WHEREAS, Three-fourths of the population in Port
34 Blair on ~~Andamans~~ *Andaman* Islands, India, were
35 exterminated by Japanese troops between March 23,
36 1942, 1942 and the end of World War II; many were
37 tortured to death or forced into sexual slavery at “comfort
38 stations,” and crimes beyond description were
39 committed on families and young children; and



~~WHEREAS, The Japanese military terrorized Manila, the capital of the Philippine Islands, from December 23, 1943, until February 14, 1944, during a period known as the “Rape of Manila,” and committed crimes that resulted in the deaths of over 100,000 Filipinos by torture, rape, and starvation; and~~

WHEREAS, At the February 1945 “Battle of Manila,” 100,000 men, women, and children were killed by Japanese armed forces in inhumane ways, adding to a total death toll that may have exceeded one million Filipinos during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines, which began in December 1941 and ended in August 1945; and

WHEREAS, At least 260 of the 1,500 United States prisoners, including many Californians, believed to have been held at Mukden, Manchuria, died during the first winter of their imprisonment and many of the 300 living survivors of Mukden claim to suffer from physical ailments resulting from their subjection to Japanese military chemical and biological experiments; and

WHEREAS, The Japanese military enslaved millions of Koreans, Chinese, Filipinos, and citizens from other occupied or colonized territories during World War II, and forced hundreds of thousands of women into sexual slavery for Japanese troops; and

~~WHEREAS, Although the International Commission of Jurists, a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in Geneva, Switzerland, ruled in 1993 that the Government of Japan should pay women who were forced to be sexual slaves of the Japanese military during World War II, known as “comfort women,” at least \$40,000 each as compensation for their “extreme pain and suffering,” none of these women have been paid any compensation by the Government of Japan; and~~

WHEREAS, The International Commission of Jurists, a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in Geneva, Switzerland, ruled in 1993 that the Government of Japan should pay reparations of at least \$40,000 for the “extreme pain and suffering” caused to each woman who was forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese military

1 (*referred by the Japanese military as “comfort women”*),
2 *yet none of these women have been paid any*
3 *compensation by the Government of Japan; and*

4 WHEREAS, At the ~~April~~ February 1999 meeting of the
5 Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District
6 Council of the Japanese American Citizens League
7 (JACL), the ~~board~~ council approved a resolution,
8 ~~eosponsored~~ sponsored by the Florin, ~~Golden Gate, and~~
9 ~~Sequoia JACL Chapters~~ JACL Chapter, that supported
10 reparations for, and a clear apology to, the innocent
11 civilian victims of Japan’s wartime atrocities; and

12 WHEREAS, At the March 1999 meeting of the
13 Sacramento Jewish Community Relations Council, a
14 service of the Sacramento Jewish Federation, the council
15 approved a resolution supporting reparations for, and a
16 clear apology to, the innocent civilian victims of Japan’s
17 wartime atrocities; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of*
19 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of
20 California urges the Government of Japan to do both of
21 the following:

22 (1) Formally issue a clear and unambiguous apology
23 for the atrocious war crimes committed by the Japanese
24 military during World War II.

25 (2) Immediately pay reparations to the victims of
26 those crimes, including United States military and civilian
27 prisoners of war, the people of Guam and the Marshall
28 Islands, who were subjected to violence and
29 imprisonment, the survivors of the “Rape of Nanking”
30 from December 1937 until February 1938, and the
31 women who were forced into sexual slavery and known
32 by the Japanese military as “comfort women”; and be it
33 further

34 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California
35 calls upon the United States Congress to adopt a similar
36 resolution that follows the spirit and letter of this
37 resolution calling on the Government of Japan to issue a
38 formal apology and pay reparations to the victims of its
39 war crimes during World War II; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California
2 requests that the President of the United States take all
3 appropriate action to further bring about a formal
4 apology and reparations by the Government of Japan to
5 the victims of its war crimes during World War II; and be
6 it further

7 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
8 transmit copies of this resolution to the Japanese
9 Ambassador to the United States, the President of the
10 United States, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of
11 the House of Representatives, and each California
12 Member of the Senate and the United States House of
13 Representatives.

